Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph at page 6, lines 10-32, and replace with the following paragraph:

In an embodiment, the present invention is directed to increasing HSC production by administering to a subject a TPO peptide, as described in corresponding U.S. application serial no. 60/498,740 (filed August 28, 2003) (attorney docket no. 038073-5005 PR), filed August 28, 2003, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference. According to this embodiment, the TPO peptide is a compound having (1) a molecular weight of less than about 5000 daltons, and (2) a binding affinity to TPO receptor as expressed by an IC_{50} of no more than about 100 μM, wherein from zero to all of the –C(O)NH—linkages of the peptides have been replaced by a linkage selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2OC(O)NR$—linkage; a phosphonate linkage; a $-CH_2S(O)_2NR$—linkage; a CH_2NR—linkage; a $C(O)NR^6$ linkage; and a –NHC(O)NH—linkage where R is hydrogen or lower alkyl and R^6 is lower alkyl, further wherein the N-terminus of said compound is selected from the group consisting of a $-NRR^1$ group; a –NRC(O)OR group; a $-NRS(O)_2R$ group; a –NHC(O)NHR group; a succinimide group; a benzyloxylcarbonyl-NH group; and a benzyloxycarbonyl-NH group having from 1 to 3 substituents on the phenyl ring selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, chloro and bromo, where R and R^1 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl, and still further when the C-terminus of the compound has the formula $-C(O)R^2$ where R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, lower alkoxy, and $-NR^3R^4$ where R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl and where the nitrogen atom of the $-NR^3R^4$ group can optionally be the amine group of the N-terminus of the peptide so as to form a cyclic peptide, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof.

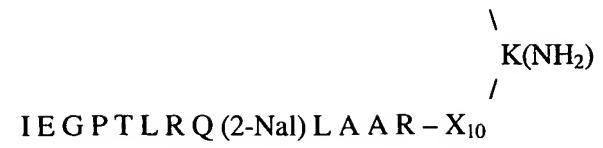
Page 7, between lines 9-10, please insert the following paragraph:

Another particularly preferred TPO mimetic peptide is I E G P T L R Q (2-Nal) L A A R X_{10}, where X_{10} is a sarcosine or β-alanine residue or a pegylated form of this compound.

Page 7, between lines 20-21, please insert the following paragraph:

According to another embodiment, the TPO mimetic peptide has the following formula:

I E G P T L R Q (2-Nal) L A A R – X_{10}



where X_{10} is a sarcosine or β-alanine residue or a pegylated form of this compound. This structure can also be represented by the following structure (H - I E G P T L R Q (2-Nal) L A A R $X_{10})_2$K-NH_2. The pegylated form may include a 20k MPEG residue covalently linked to each N-terminal isoleucine.